

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 CPR-01 PA-01
USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /061 W
-----081445 221051Z /23

R 220845Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5930
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 2331

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, YO
SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD CREATE A NEW FEDERAL
SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION AND REDUCE NUMBER OF FEDERAL
COMMITTEES FROM TWELVE TO SIX. SUPPOSEDLY AN EFFORT TO
STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CHANGES APPEAR TO HAVE
LITTLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THEMSELVES, BUT THEY DO
RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF TOP FEDERAL POSTS,
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AND MAY REFLECT DESIRE TO FURTHER DECENTRALIZE GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A
PROPOSAL TO REORGANIZE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHICH
WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MAY 15 IF APPROVED. UNDER NEW
PLAN THERE WOULD BE EIGHT FEDERAL SECRETARIATS INSTEAD

OF THE PRESENT SEVEN. NEW SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION
WOULD BE CREATED, AND SECRETARIAT FOR MARKETS AND PRICES
WOULD BECOME SECRETARIAT FOR MARKETS AND GENERAL
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

2. THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL COMMITTEES WILL BE REDUCED FROM
TWELVE TO SIX. BESIDES COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION, WHICH
WILL BE RAISED TO SECRETARIAT STATUS (ABOVE), SIX OTHER
COMMITTEES WILL EITHER BE CONSOLIDATED OR HAVE THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE. THE COMMITTEE
FOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL
WELFARE WILL BE COMBINED INTO ONE NEW COMMITTEE FOR LABOR,
HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THE COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL
PLANNING IS TO BE ABOLISHED, ITS WORK TRANSFERRED TO THE
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL PLANNING. THE COMMITTEE FOR TOURISM
WILL BE ABOLISHED, ITS DUTIES TRANSFERRED TO NEWLY
RENAMED SECRETARIAT FOR MARKETS AND GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.
THE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING
NATIONS IS TO BE ABOLISHED AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES DISTRIBUTED

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 CPR-01 PA-01

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AMONG THE SECRETARIATS OF FOREIGN TRADE AND FINANCE AND THE COMMITTEES FOR ENERGY AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION. THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE WILL BE ABOLISHED BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHERE THOSE DUTIES WILL BE ABSORBED. THEY MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, THE CHANGES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND SIMPLICITY. AT SAME TIME, ASSEMBLY IS ENCOURAGING THE VARIOUS REPUBLICS TO FORM INTER-REPUBLICAN COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES TO TAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON SOME RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY HANDLED BY THE FEDERAL COMMITTEES. THIS, STATE PRESS ACCOUNTS, WOULD LEAD TO STILL FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION TO THE REPUBLICS.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES HAVE ANY MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE IN THEMSELVES. THERE WAS A SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION UNTIL 1974. PARADOXICALLY, ALTHOUGH IT WAS "DOWNGRADED" TO COMMITTEE LEVEL THEN, ITS POWER AND PRESTIGE WERE ENHANCED BECAUSE OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE MUHAMED BERBEROVIC, WAS NOT ONLY MORE CAPABLE BUT BETTER-CONNECTED WITHIN THE PARTY. PRESENT CHANGE COULD BE EQUALLY DECEPTIVE. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN YUGOSLAV FOREIGN POLICY, THE DISMANTLING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS IS A BIT SURPRISING. MANY OF ITS TRADE FUNCTIONS, HOWEVER, MAY BE TAKEN UP BY THE INDIVIDUAL REPUBLICS. ELIMINATION OF FIVE FEDERAL COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES WILL REDUCE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO 27 UNLESS NUMBER OF "AT-LARGE" MEMBERS IS INCREASED. THIS, PLUS PROMISED REDUCTION OF PARTY PRESIDUM FROM 45 TO ONLY 24 MEMBERS (PLUS POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) MEANS A SHARP REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL FEDERAL POSTS, AND MAY FURTHER REFLECT INTEREST IN DECENTRALIZATION. THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE IS SUCH THAT MANY WELL QUALIFIED PEOPLE RESIST ASSIGNMENT TO FEDERAL LEVEL POSITIONS, AND THE SMALLER REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES OFTEN COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY PROVIDING ENOUGH QUALIFIED CADRE TO FILL THE NUMEROUS FEDERAL POSTS. WITHOUT IMPOVERISHING THEMSELVES AT HOME. THE REORGANIZATION COULD ALSO SERVE TO ALLEVIATE SUCH PRESSURES. NEVERTHELESS, EACH REPUBLIC AND PROVINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUES TO DEMAND ITS "SHARE" OF FEDERAL-LEVEL POSITIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PGOV, YO
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